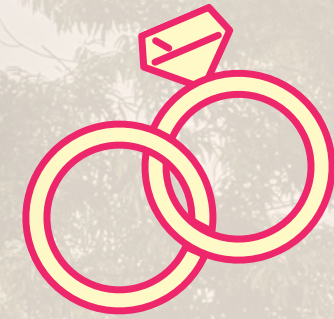




PREPARED BY THE IMAMS' OFFICE AT
THE ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF RALEIGH

GETTING MARRIED?



Congratulations!

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

In Islam, marriage is a bond unifying a man and woman for the purpose of loving one another, helping one another, and raising children to be righteous Muslims. It is a blessing that a Muslim man and woman are worshiping Allah through marriage. The Prophet of Allah ﷺ said, "When a person gets married, he has protected half of his Imaan (faith), so let him be conscious of Allah with regard to the other half."

(Tabarani)



THE GOALS OF MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

- 1 Raising a family to promote the next generation of righteous Muslims
- 2 Finding companionship to fulfill one's emotional needs and desires
- 3 Exercising self-control and preserving modesty
- 4 Facilitating a permissible path for one to engage with the opposite gender



THE CONDITIONS OF MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

- 1 The agreement between both the groom and bride
- 2 The agreement of the bride's guardian (Wali)
- 3 The Mahr
- 4 The witnesses
- 5 Marrying with the intention of a lifetime relationship



1 THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH THE GROOM AND BRIDE

- The willingness of both the groom and bride in an Islamic marriage is mandatory.
- The groom and bride must be of mature age and able to make this important decision for themselves.
- The groom must be a Muslim.
 - The reasoning behind this is that he is taking full responsibility for the family's affairs in accordance with Islamic traditions. Additionally, the children will carry his family name and be born and raised as Muslims by default.
 - If the groom is a convert/revert who was not born a Muslim, he must present his Islamic Shahadah (Testimony of Faith) certificate.



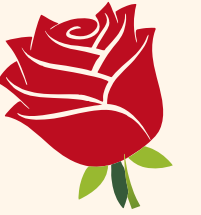
1 THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH THE GROOM AND BRIDE

- The bride must be a Muslim.
 - The only exception to this rule is if there is a dire need for a Muslim man to marry a non-Muslim woman. If this is the case, the following criteria must be met:
 - She must be from among the People of The Book (Christian or Jewish).
 - She must be a chaste woman (not currently active in any sexual relationships).



2 THE AGREEMENT OF THE WALI

- In general, the presence and support of the couple's family members is essential to the marriage process. Moreover, the consent of the Wali of bride is required to validate the marriage contract.
- In Islam, a Wali is a person who is responsible for the bride's life affairs before she is married.
 - Being the one who protects the interest of the bride and advocates for the best for her future affairs, it is his duty to ensure that the groom is a reliable and trustworthy person who will continue to carry on his role and responsibility towards the bride after her marriage.



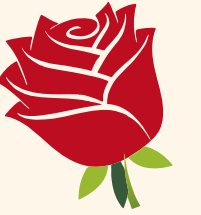
2 THE AGREEMENT OF THE WALI

- The Wali of the bride should be one of the following: the father, paternal grandfather, brother, son, or paternal uncle of the bride. He must be familiar with and understand the Islamic marriage process. He should also be familiar with Islamic laws so he can be part of any counseling or arbitration process to reconcile between the couple if the need arises.
- If the bride is a Muslimah but has no Muslim family members eligible to be her Wali, she should assign a Muslim male to be her Wali that knows her and is willing to protect her affairs.



2 THE AGREEMENT OF THE WALI

- If the bride is not a Muslimah, her Wali should be one of her male paternal relatives. If she does not have any, then she can assign any Muslim male who knows her to serve as her Wali.
- The Wali can be present in-person, virtually, or provide signed written consent.



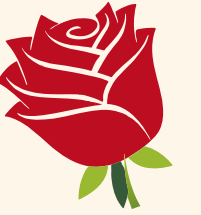
3 THE MAHR

- The Mahr is an obligatory gift of value given by the groom to his bride. The Mahr becomes the property of the bride to spend, save, or invest for the rest of her life as she pleases.
- The Mahr can be money, property, or anything else agreed upon by the bride. This may include jewelry, home goods, furniture, a dwelling, a viable business that she is given part or whole ownership of, or a promise made by the groom to do a specific act as defined by the bride (ex: take her to Hajj, pay off her education debt, etc.).



3 THE MAHR

- Mahr may be paid in whole in a one-time payment or it may be split into installment payments. The initial payment should be made before signing the marriage contract and the later payments are due as specified in the marriage contract, such as during the lifetime of the relationship, upon the death of the husband, or upon a divorce initiated by the husband.



4 THE WITNESSES

- At least two Muslim male witnesses must be present at the time of the signing of the marriage contract for it to be valid.
- The witnesses on the marriage contract must be Muslims because they should be familiar with the process and nature of the binding responsibilities listed on the contract they are signing.
 - If the presence of two Muslim male witnesses is not feasible, one Muslim male witness and two Muslim female witnesses should be present.



5 MARRYING WITH THE INTENTION OF A LIFETIME RELATIONSHIP

- A marriage done with the intention of getting divorced whether stipulated or not in the contract is an invalid marriage due to the following reasons:
 - It does not serve the ultimate goal of getting married but rather only fulfils selfish goals such as fulfilling sexual desires or attaining worldly benefits.
 - It is prohibited due to the deceit and betrayal involved, because if the bride and her guardian knew that the groom was only getting married with the intention eventual divorce, they would not have agreed to the marriage.



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When supplicating for the newlyweds, the Prophet ﷺ would say:
"Barak Allahu lakumaa, wa baraka alaikumaa, wa jama'a
bainakumaa fee khair."

"May Allah bless you both, send blessings upon you both, and bring
goodness between you both."



بارك الله لكما
و بارك عليكما
و جمع بينكما في خير